

REMARKS

Claims 2-7, and 9-20 and 34-52 are pending in this application. Claim 8 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to its reintroduction in this application or a later-filed continuation or divisional application. Claim 52, which is identical to claim 51 but depends from independent method claim 34, has been added.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 12-20, 34-47, 50, and 51 and the Examiner's indication that claims 2-4 contain allowable subject matter, and would be allowed if rewritten in independent format.

In response to the Examiner's constructive suggestion, claim 2 has been rewritten in independent format to include the limitations of claim 8, from which claim 2 had depended. Claims 3 and 4 each depend from claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-4 are consistent with the Examiner's identification of allowable subject matter.

Claims 5-11, 48, and 49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 2000-204046 to Ohara.

Claims 5-7, 9, 10, and 48 have been amended to depend from claim 2, which was not subject to this rejection and which was identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Further claim 11 depends from claim 10, and claim 49 depends from claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-7, 9-11, 48, and 49 each depends, directly or indirectly, from claim 2, which has been identified by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. The rejection of claim 8 has been rendered moot by its cancellation.

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection and allowance of all claims.

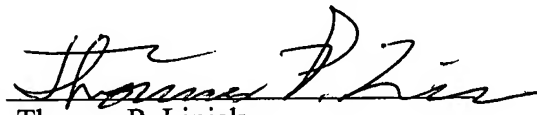
Finally, new claim 52 depends from claim 34, which has been allowed by the Examiner, and is therefore itself allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of this response and its passage to issue are respectfully requested.

If, after reviewing the above, the Examiner believes any issues remain unresolved, the favor of an Examiner interview is requested and the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned, by telephone, to schedule the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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